

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 20. (canceled)

1           21. (currently amended) A plug-connectable vacuum  
2       cleaner pipe arrangement comprising a sleeve part which forms a  
3       socket into which a pipe insertion end can be axially inserted in  
4       an insertion direction and which can be held in a snap-locked  
5       condition releasably by locking means which on a side of the sleeve  
6       part is comprised of a locking body movable on the sleeve part and  
7       on the side of the pipe insertion end is formed by a detent recess  
8       provided in the pipe insertion end in which the a detent body  
9       releasably engages, an actuating slider is axially shiftable on the  
10      sleeve part and which has a locking surface and is displaceable in  
11      two axially opposite axial directions starting from a neutral axial  
12      position of the locking surface against respective spring restoring  
13      forces, the locking surface holding the locking body in a locked  
14      position in the neutral axial position of the locking surface and  
15      with each shift out of the neutral axial position into an ~~an~~ unlocking  
16      position being displaced into an unlocking position, an end of the  
17      tube pipe insertion end having a first control surface which upon  
18      insertion of the tube pipe insertion end into the socket moves the  
19      locking body together with the sleeve part relative to the locking  
20      surface in a pipe insertion direction, thereby unlocking the  
21      locking body and freeing it for releasable snap locking into the

22       detent recess which is juxtaposed with a second control surface  
23       which, upon withdrawal of the tube pipe insertion end from the  
24       socket moves the locking body together with the sleeve part rela-  
25       tive to the locking surface in a withdrawal direction and thereby  
26       disengages, the actuating slider has having a radially inwardly  
27       projecting substantially claw-like formation extending toward the  
28       sleeve part with a claw opening receiving a rod spring held on the  
29       sleeve part at a spring region deflectable in both opposite axial  
30       directions.

1                 22. (currently amended) A plug-connectable vacuum  
2       cleaner pipe arrangement comprising a sleeve part which forms a  
3       socket into which a pipe insertion end can be axially inserted in  
4       an insertion direction and which can be held in a snap-locked  
5       condition releasably by locking means which on a side of the sleeve  
6       part is comprised of a locking body movable on the sleeve part and  
7       on the side of the pipe insertion end is formed by a detent recess  
8       provided in the pipe insertion end and in which the a detent body  
9       releasably engages, an actuating slider is axially shiftable on the  
10      sleeve part and which has a locking surface and is displaceable in  
11      two axially opposite axial directions starting from a neutral axial  
12      position of the locking surface against respective spring restoring  
13      forces, the locking surface holding the locking body in a locked  
14      position in the neutral axial position of the locking surface and  
15      with each shift out of the neutral axial position into an unlocking

16 position being displaced into an unlocking position, an end of the  
17 tube pipe insertion end having a first control surface which upon  
18 insertion of the tube pipe insertion end into the socket moves the  
19 locking body together with the sleeve part relative to the locking  
20 surface in a pipe insertion direction, thereby unlocking the  
21 locking body and freeing it for releasable snap locking into the  
22 detent recess which is juxtaposed with a second control surface  
23 which, upon withdrawal of the tube pipe insertion end from the  
24 socket moves the locking body together with the sleeve part rela-  
25 tive to the locking surface in a withdrawal direction and thereby  
26 disengages, the detent body forming being formed with a tongue like  
27 component cut out of the sleeve part and with a tongue root is  
28 adjacent an end of the sleeve part

23. (canceled)

1 24. (currently amended) The plug-connectable vacuum  
2 cleaner pipe arrangement according to claim 23 22 wherein the  
3 actuating slider has a locking projection formed with the locking  
4 surface and projecting radially toward an outer surface of the  
5 sleeve part.

1 25. (currently amended) The plug-connectable vacuum  
2 cleaner pipe arrangement according to claim 24 wherein the locking  
3 projection radially tapers toward the sleeve part and has a frusto-

4        pyramidal cross section, whereby the roof surfaces of the locking  
5        projection forms form the locking surface and the locking surface  
6        is inclined in both opposite axial directions along side flanks  
7        forming slide guide surfaces for the locking body.

1            26. (previously presented) The plug connectable vacuum  
2        cleaner pipe arrangement according to claim 24 wherein the actuat-  
3        ing slider forms a collar surrounding the sleeve part.

1            27. (currently amended) The plug connectable vacuum  
2        cleaner pipe according to claim 26 wherein the pipe insertion end  
3        has a radially ~~radially~~ outwardly projecting axial guide rib and  
4        the sleeve part has on an inner shell surface an axial guide groove  
5        corresponding to the axial guide rib.

1            28. (previously presented) The plug connectable vacuum  
2        cleaner pipe according to claim 27 wherein the detent recess is  
3        formed as a radially inwardly projecting cup-shaped recess oriented  
4        toward the pipe center.

1            29. (previously presented) The plug connectable vacuum  
2        cleaner pipe according to claim 28 wherein the cup shaped recess  
3        has a generally frustoconical cross sectional contour.

1               30. (previously presented) The plug connectable vacuum  
2 cleaner pipe according to claim 29 wherein the detent body forms a  
3 locking counter surface juxtaposed with the locking surface of the  
4 actuating slider.

1               31. (previously presented) The plug connectable vacuum  
2 cleaner pipe according to claim 29 wherein the detent body forms  
3 slide guide counter surfaces corresponding to the inclined slide  
4 guide surfaces of the locking projection of the actuating slider  
5 inclined in the two mutually opposite axial directions.